

EMILY DICKINSON HOME

280 Main Street, Amherst

Emily Dickinson was born in this substantial brick house in 1830 and made her home here from 1855 until her death in 1886. More than most places associated with a particular person, the “mansion” and its grounds have an intensely intimate relationship with this reclusive poet. Contemporary reviewers were often bewildered by Dickinson’s poems, with their metrical originality, fractured grammar, and obscure references, but over the years critical appreciation has steadily grown, and she is now recognized as a major figure in American literature. The house currently serves as a faculty residence for Amherst College but may be visited by appointment.